

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2008
(Approved on December 8, 2008)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were John Arsenault, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Representative Dean Cray, Ron Green, Robert Gardner (for Robert McAleer), Geoffrey Maker, Ed Marks, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Vicki Schmidt and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Jay Bradshaw, Chief Dan Brooks, Stephan Bunker, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Alan Johnston, Harty Norris, Representative Benjamin Pratt, Charles Soltan and David Wacker. William Vickerson, representing the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, attended the meeting as guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by Richard Nass, to accept the meeting minutes of October 6, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference 2009 Committee reported discussions continue with Maine Emergency Management Agency to combine efforts for next year's conference. The tentative dates are Thursday, April 30th and Friday, May 1st. Several locations are being considered including Point Lookout in Northport. The Spring 2009 Conference Committee has another planning meeting scheduled in November and will report back to the Fire Commission in December.

The Training Facilities Committee's Work Group met in October. The Work Group reviewed the DVD- "Securing Maine's Future"- and discussed long and short-term goals and made several recommendations. Initial funding needs to be secured to hire an architectural firm and they proposed the Fire Commission submit legislation in 2009. Future funding to build the state and regional facilities could be requested as part of the Governor's bond package. The Work Group also recommended the following items for discussion and resolution including the governing authority, costs to run the facilities, identifying state and local partners and funding issues. The Work Group agreed to reconvene at the request of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Jeff Cammack, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission requests the Training Facilities Work Group reconvenes in December 2008 to discuss the issues identified at their October meeting. The Fire

Commission further requests that the Work Group submit a report with their findings and recommendations by the end of January 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

The Best Practices Committee reports no new submissions this month for nominations for the Fire Commission's Best Practices award. Members received copies of the Best Practices award criteria and nomination form, which is also available on the Fire Commission's website.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee hosted a morning meeting with Fire Commission members, Ed Holohan of Penflex, Inc., David Rogers of RBC/Dain Rauscher and William Vickerson, MSFFF's Legal and Legislative representative. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Fire Commission's commitment to initiating and supporting legislation to provide length of service award programs (LOSAPs) to Maine's call and volunteer firefighters. Discussion included the Fire Commission's earlier attempts to offer a LOSAP program and the pros and cons of the two benefit programs- defined contribution and defined benefit. In 2002 the Fire Commission commissioned Penflex, Inc. to conduct an actuarial study to estimate the cost of a LOSAP to call and volunteer firefighters in Maine. The final report was completed in 2003 and the Fire Commission agreed to move forward with offering a LOSAP program. Earlier this year, the Fire Commission realized that further funding would be required to update the numbers from the 2003 report. The consensus of the group was to move forward and focus efforts and resources, with assistance from Penflex and MSFFF, on offering a defined contribution program and submitting a bill to the 124th Legislature in 2009. During discussion in the afternoon meeting, Fire Commission members agreed that issues concerning eligibility criteria- who will determine eligibility, tiered systems based on qualifications or time served or both, the Fire Commission's original 24/24 credible service/ training component and others- needed to be decided prior to drafting and submitting legislation. Members agreed a LOSAP work group, comprised of the affected constituencies, be formed to develop the eligibility criteria.

A motion by Ron Green, seconded by John Arsenault, that directs Chair Jeffrey Cammack to appoint a Recruitment and Retention LOSAP Work Group to revisit and re-evaluate the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission's previous eligibility criteria and review other alternatives, including reviewing other state's eligibility requirements, and make recommendations to the Fire Commission prior to drafting legislation. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cammack appointed the following seven members of the LOSAP Work Group:

<i>Geoffrey Maker (CHAIR)</i>	<i>Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters</i>
<i>Representative Benjamin Pratt</i>	<i>Maine Legislation</i>
<i>Ron Green</i>	<i>Professional Fire Fighters of Maine</i>
<i>Darrel Fournier</i>	<i>Maine Fire Chiefs Association</i>
<i>Peter Rines</i>	<i>Maine Fire Training and Education</i>
<i>Jay Bradshaw</i>	<i>Maine Emergency Medical Services</i>
<i>David Wacker</i>	<i>Bureau of Labor Standards</i>

Old Business

The Fire Commission was updated on the progress of the State-wide Mutual Aide agreement. The Attorney General's Office has completed their review and the next step is to submit legislation. All Maine communities would be part of the agreement although the legislation would include an "opt out" provision. The Fire Commission will consider sponsoring the legislation in 2009 after having the opportunity to review the final language. Copies of the state-wide mutual aide agreement will be emailed prior to the December meeting.

The Fire Team USA program on residential sprinklers was deemed a success by attendees. The two-day program, held in Bangor on November 12th and 13th, was based on a belief that a fire safe community could be developed. Originating in Tennessee, Fire Team USA established their first fire safe community and become advocates for residential sprinklers in new construction across the USA. Their message is that residential sprinklers "protect and save lives" at less than the cost of a new granite countertop!

New Business

Maine Fire Service Day at the State House is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009. The Fire Commission has reserved the Welcome Center on the first floor of the State House, with additional tables and displays on the second and third floors. Plans also include color guard and prayers by the Fire Chaplain.

The Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the Fire Commission, Maine Fire Chiefs and MSFFF, is also scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th at the Senator Inn on Western Avenue in Augusta. The breakfast is scheduled to start at 7:00am, allowing guests to also attend the State House events.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Service Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, December 8, 2008</u>	LOSAP MEETING	DPS-FHCR	10:00am
<u>Monday, December 8, 2008</u>	MEETING	DPS-FHCR	1:00pm
<u>Thursday, December 25, 2008</u>	<i><u>MERRY CHRISTMAS</u></i>		
<u>Thursday, January 1, 2009</u>	<i><u>HAPPY NEW YEAR</u></i>		
<u>Monday, January 5, 2009</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, February 2, 2009</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Tuesday, February 10, 2009</u>	Legislative Breakfast at the Senator		TBA
<u>Tuesday, February 10, 2009</u>	Maine Fire Service Day at the State House		
<u>Monday, March 2, 2009</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm

** DPS-FHCR= Department of Public Safety, Fallen Heroes Conference Room*

To be scheduled:

2009 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders (tentative April 30-May 1)

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy (late Spring 2009)

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